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Committees

Agriculture & Rural Development, Chair
Public Utilities
State and Local Government

Brian D. Hill
State Representative, 97th House District

August 31, 2018

Commissioner Brendan Carr
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, SW
Washington, DC 20554

RE: WT Docket No. 17-79 - Accelerating Wireless Broadband Deployment by Removing Barriers to Infrastructure Investment

Dear Commissioner Carr,

Thank you for exhibiting leadership at the Federal Communications Commission through your efforts to bring 5G wireless service to the United States as soon as possible. This is a commendable mission, and America's public officials must take timely, reasonable actions to boost our country in the global race to establish 5G. As the Chairman of the Agriculture and Rural Development Committee in the Ohio House of Representatives, I am concerned deeply about the expansion of this into our rural areas of Ohio too.

Complementing the Commission's recent orders, the Ohio Legislature also took the initiative to simplify and accelerate 5G deployment. House Bill 478, which went into effect this August, will modernize and encourage the deployment of critical 5G infrastructure called small cells in Ohio. Vast amounts of investment, economic activity, job opportunities, and new technologies will follow the spread of 5G. The communities – and countries – that are first to win 5G will receive the greater share of these benefits.

While the FCC and the Ohio Legislature have worked to reduce the timeline for 5G deployment, the same cannot be said for all local and state governments. Regulations written in a different era continue to dictate the regulatory process for 5G infrastructure. Given the obvious differences between large cellular towers and 5G's cutting edge infrastructure – such as small cells – these unnecessarily burdensome regulations should be streamlined to adapt to the nature of today's technology.

Regulatory modifications are vital if we are to protect the flow of 5G investment. Network operators will have the incentive to initially deploy 5G in large markets with many consumers. However, if the investment process in these areas is long and expensive, smaller communities may be looking at a prolonged wait for 5G services and the opportunities that come with it.

In addition to closing the 5G deployment timeline, the FCC has also made it a point to close the digital divide. Without modernizing wireless infrastructure regulations, both of these goals will only be set back

further. As an active member of my community, I am well aware of the importance of guaranteeing reliable access to essential services in today's digital age. Future development will be intertwined with 5G. We must make sure that these opportunities are available to all communities – including our smaller ones.

I am convinced that improving the regulatory process for 5G infrastructure will be imperative to providing access to all citizens. From your position of leadership in the FCC, I respectfully urge you to encourage this modernization.

Sincerely,

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Brian D. Hill". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized "B" and "H".

Brian D. Hill
State Representative
97th House District

